What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #157:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! As you might have noticed I did not write a newsletter last week. During the summer I'm trying to be thoughtful about whether newsletters make sense so I might skip a week or two if nothing of substance is happening. There will always be auctions but many are smaller electronic auctions that don't necessitate a huge explanation. I'd like to keep my newsletters relevant so I won't mention every single e-sale if it doesn't contain noteworthy material.

This summer I am hoping to spend some time with my numismatic friends at the ANA and ANS over Zoom. I hope that you'll take advantage of these opportunities as well. This is why I am sending this newsletter out today. The ANS has their Long Table sessions every Friday so in order to keep you all informed I'm sending this out a day earlier than I normally would.

Introducing The NumisPlace Website

I am happy to be a charter dealer on the new website, The NumisPlace. It is still in the early stages of growth but this site will hopefully become the premier place to see newly offered inventory from some of the best dealers in the numismatic world. Dealers like NAC, who don't normally offer their material privately outside of the occasional trade show, are among those on this new site. The overall functionality is similar to their competitor VCoins, but a major difference is that there is a minimum level that can be offered on the site so you won't see any coins available for lower than 250 CHF. This will provide a more enjoyable experience for buyers and also afford the dealers (like me) the pleasure of not being pushed out because of having smaller, high quality inventories. Another feature of the site is that all coins are shown unbranded and only once you select the coin will you see from which dealer it comes. There is a buy function but also one to make offers. We all know how much dealers like to negotiate so don't let the price tag scare you away if it is a coin you really want. That said, please remember that most

costs are not arbitrary, they are set based on what the dealer paid and also account for unseen components like traveling to auctions to buy.

Another interesting component of The NumisPlace is that there will be member-only parties at various trade shows in Europe and the U.S.A. to facilitate dealer to customer relationships.

Here is a link to join The NumisPlace:
https://www.thenumisplace.com/377-join-the-club

ANS Long Table - July 17 @ 1 p.m. (EST)

The Long Table discussion this week will be focused on the wonderful research tool HRC (Hellenistic Royal Coinages). Ethan Gruber and Peter Van Alfen will be discussing how to identify those pesky monograms and use the HRC effectively. Admittedly I rely mostly on my books to do my research work but sitting in Germany now without my library has made me realize how important it is to be versed in online resources. I even went so far to purchase a book scanner so upon my return to the U.S. I will start scanning all of my library. Having your books in the cloud is a great advantage when you can't be at home. I hope if you haven't joined the ANS by now, many of you will consider it. It is a low cost of entry and it provides so much more during this difficult time in the world. Go to this link to join: http://numismatics.org/membership/

ANS Money Talks - July 18

The next Money Talks on July 18 is entitled "An Introduction to the State Coinages of the Confederation, 1785 - 1788". This talk will discuss how the early states, prior to the passing of the U.S. constitution, were given the right to coin money. This discussion is led by collector Ray Williams who is a specialist on colonial coinages.

The Money Talks series are more presentation-like talks. Differing from the Long Table talks which are more relaxed and conservational in nature, Money Talks is a presentation followed by a virtual Q&A session. If you want to sign up for the presentation you will need to become a member of the ANS (worth every penny!). Here is a link:

http://numismatics.org/

ANA E-Learning Academy (several dates)

The ANA has gotten in on the virtual learning game by offering two-hour courses from some of their most learned instructors. Some of the courses being offered are: "Introduction to Paper Money Production and Counterfeit Detection" by Joseph Boling. Mr. Boling has been a fixture at the ANA for years and is heavily involved in the exhibits section of the ANA World's Fair of Money. Another is "When the Die is Wrong: Wrong Die Varieties That Can be Found and Collected" presented by John H. Miller Jr., a variety expert for more than 20 years. If you want to check out what is offered please go to this link: https://info.money.org/elearning. If you haven't joined the ANA, now is a great time to do so. Being a governor on the current board, I can tell you that membership is extremely important to the vitality and future of the ANA. If people forget about this organization during the pandemic then we won't have it after the pandemic is over. We need to support these organizations with the simple gift of membership. By being a

member, programs can keep being created. Please consider joining at https://www.money.org/account/join. If you join, drop me a line to let me know!

Upcoming Auctions

Chris Rudd - John Follows Collection (Final Part) - (19 July 2020)

The final part of the John Follows Celtic collection will be presented on July 19th through The Saleroom. Chris Rudd auctions are typically less than 75 coins, this one being 49 pieces. The thing to keep in mind with these auctions is that the lots do not close in a typical fashion. Once someone bids there is time added on the clock so it may take several minutes for a lot to close if there is competition. It becomes easy to lose track of something if you are bidding on multiple items. I have bid in the first two John Follows auctions and bidding was fierce. I expect it to be with this as well. The coins being offered are lovely but please do keep in mind that asking about condition is okay to do. Liz Cottam of Chris Rudd would be pleased to answer your questions. If you are interested in this auction please get in touch with me or go directly to the this link: https://www.the-saleroom.com/en-gb/auction-catalogues/chris-rudd/catalogue-id-chris-10032

Roma E-Sale 73 (23 July 2020)

The Roma E-Sale 73 is a massive sale of 1,598 coins. The beginning will attract many collectors with another 184 coins from the William Stancomb collection. The Stancomb collection focuses mainly on coins from the Black Sea region. These coins were catalogued and published by Stancomb in its own volume of the Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum, Great Britain, Volume XI (SNG Stancomb). This group constitutes an accumulation of years of dedicated collecting. I strongly advocate taking a look at what is being offered.

The rest of the auction has a lot of different desirable types in all areas of ancients and many with pedigrees. The auction ends with some Becker forgeries and electrotypes. Speaking of electrotypes, CNG just had a large group of electrotypes hammer in their e-sale yesterday for high prices. It seems that even fakes from well-known forgers are going for strong hammers!

Leu Numismatik Auction 6 and 7 (23 October 2020)

Please don't forget to get in touch if you want to start discussing the Leu 6 and 7 auctions. Auction 6 is composed of 300 high quality, wonderfully pedigreed Greek coins. There are some great rarities within the collection. I have personally taken 600 high quality iphone photos of obverses and reverses of each coin. I also have a preliminary pedigree list. I won't be sharing this en masse but I will be using this to help my customers formulate in advance what to bid on. I will start individual client conversations with those interested in pursuing pieces in this auction, so please get in touch soon.

Coin of the Week

PTOLEMAIC KINGS OF EGYPT. Ptolemy I Soter. As satrap, 325-305 BC (Satrap), 305-282 BC (King). Cyprus mint.
AR Tetradrachm, 15.76g (29mm, 12h). Head of Alexander in the guise of Herakles clad in elephant skin / Pallas Promachos with shield and spear, ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ to l.

Pedigree: Ex Davissons 24, 8 December 2005, lot 148. Ex CNG Auction 43, 24 September 1997, lot 880

References: Svoronos 164. Zervos Issue 29. CPE 70

Grade: Beautiful iridescent toning. Sharply struck and well centered. Insignificant die break from ear to back of neck, and behind crown on obverse. On the reverse another minor die break to the right of the shield. Toned EF

Price: $6,000

gk1392

Buy Coin

Ptolemy I Soter was the founder of the Ptolemaic Dynasty. The average person likely doesn't recognize that the Ptolemies were Greeks and that a long history in Egypt of indigenous Egyptians had existed well before they came into existence. Cleopatra VII, arguably the most famous and last of the Ptolemies and Hellenism in Egypt, was actually Greek. Everything changed around 331 BC when Alexander the Great entered into battle and ultimately was victorious against the Persians at the Battle of

Gaugamela. It was also at this time that Alexander first encountered the elephantine army that the Persians had assembled under their leader Darios III. It was in fact those 15 elephants that Alexander took from Darios to assemble his own elephantine army. The obverse of this coin is an allusion to that monumental event showing the deified Alexander with the elephant skin headdress.

Alexandria, where this coin was struck was envisioned and created by Alexander. Alexander was far different than the Persian overlords before him in Egypt. While the Persians were largely uninterested in the people of Egypt, only taking their valuable resources as tribute and placing satraps there to rule, Alexander understood the importance of assimilation to Egyptian customs, as well as conversion of the population to Greek ideals. He even went so far as to become anointed as pharaoh in 332 BC in Memphis.

After Alexander's death, Ptolemy Soter obtained the right to administer Egypt from Perdiccas. Soter had marched with Alexander in Afghanistan and commanded a division. Not as much is known about Soter from historical writings which is unfortunate. What is certain is that it wasn't particularly easy for Ptolemy Soter to continue as Alexander had. One good thing that Ptolemy did to secure the support of the Egyptian and Greek communities was to put to death Cleomenes of Naucratis, who was actually installed by Alexander himself. Cleomenes, used his position to hold important Egyptian corn "hostage" during a famine in mainland Greece. He also ruthlessly extracted double taxes from the Egyptian priesthood. By killing Cleomenes, Ptolemy showed good will towards the native population. Just like Alexander, Ptolemy was anointed pharoah by the Egyptians.

On Ptolemy Soter's death, his son Ptolemy Philadelphus, grew Egypt by leaps and bounds. The Ptolemaic dynasty ruled for another three centuries until the death of Cleopatra VII and Mark Antony and the Roman success at Actium in 31 BC.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/ptolemaic-kings-of-egypt-ptolemy-i-soter-as-satrap-325-305-bc-satrap-305-282-bc-king-cyprus-mint?rq=gk1392

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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mailchimp